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News Release

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Town Hall Meeting scheduled to discuss underage drinking

The Branson/Taney County Underage Drinking Prevention Coalition and the Community Partnership will be conducting a Town Hall Meeting on underage drinking prevention on Tuesday, March 30, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Branson City Hall.

According to Kara Miller with the Taney County Health Department and organizer of the Underage Drinking Prevention Coalition, a panel of local experts will be attending to discuss underage drinking and answer questions. The panel includes Jeff Merrell, Taney County Prosecutor, Chip Arnette, Branson High School Principal, Chris Davis with the Community Partnership and Vonnie Mathiesen, assistant city administrator of Hollister, whose son Chad Fuqua was killed in an alcohol related traffic accident.

Miller said state statistics show that kids in Missouri begin drinking alcohol at the average age of 12, and teens that abuse alcohol can shrink their brain capacity by up to 10 percent.

Young people convicted of alcohol related offenses can also expect his or her future career options limited.

The Branson /Taney County Underage Drinking Prevention Coalition was formed about three years ago to educate parents and the community on the dangers of underage drinking and actions that can be taken by the public and private sectors to prevent it.